



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 914

LCO No. 4284



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN FOR A CERTAIN HONOR AND CERTAIN BENEFIT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-73e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in conjunction with the
4 Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each (1) veteran
5 [who served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-
6 103, and] who either [(1)] (A) was a resident of this state at the time he
7 or she was called to active duty for [such] service in time of war, or
8 [(2)] (B) is domiciled in this state on the date of such award, and (2)
9 former member of any reserve component of the armed forces who
10 was honorably discharged who either (A) was a resident of this state at
11 the time he or she was serving in such reserve component during a
12 period of war, or (B) is domiciled in this state on the date of such
13 award. The commissioner in conjunction with the Adjutant General
14 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, setting forth the
15 process for designing the ribbon and medal, identifying veterans who

16 are eligible for the ribbon and medal under this section and
17 establishing procedures for distributing the ribbon and medal to each
18 eligible veteran. The cost of the ribbons and medals shall be paid from
19 the funds appropriated to the military assistance account within the
20 Military Department. Within existing budgetary resources, awards
21 under this section may be made posthumously for veterans who died
22 on or after November 12, 1918. As used in this section, "veteran",
23 "service in time of war" and "period of war" have the same meanings
24 as provided in subsection (a) of section 27-103.

25 Sec. 2. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 14-36h of the general
26 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
27 (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

28 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the
29 Department of Veterans Affairs to have his or her status as a veteran
30 contained on his or her motor vehicle operator's license or identity
31 card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of
32 such request, verify whether such person is a veteran and, if so, notify
33 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification.
34 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall indicate such person's
35 status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity
36 card issued to such person upon original issuance or renewal of a
37 motor vehicle operator's license or identity card or upon issuance of a
38 duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or identity card.

39 (f) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most
40 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of
41 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by
42 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity,
43 unless the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate
44 of civil union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent
45 jurisdiction pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name;
46 and (2) "veteran" [has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a)
47 of section 27-103] means any person honorably discharged from, or

48 released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed
49 forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, and any former
50 member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay under 10
51 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for age,
52 would be so entitled.

53 Sec. 3. Section 27-122b of the general statutes is repealed and the
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

55 (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means any person (1)
56 honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions
57 from, active service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps,
58 Air Force or Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof,
59 organized pursuant to an Act of Congress; (2) who has completed at
60 least twenty years of qualifying service, as described in and computed
61 under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, in the
62 Connecticut National Guard; or (3) who was killed in action, or who
63 died as a result of accident or illness sustained while performing active
64 service, in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or
65 Coast Guard or any women's auxiliary branch thereof, organized
66 pursuant to an Act of Congress, or in the Connecticut National Guard.

67 (b) (1) Any veteran may, by letter or other communication
68 addressed to the commissioner, or by will, request that upon his or her
69 death his or her body be buried in a veterans' cemetery established
70 pursuant to section 27-122a, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may
71 apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran buried in
72 said veterans' cemetery, and in either case such request shall be
73 granted.

74 (c) (1) Any member or former member of the armed forces, as
75 defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who is a resident of this
76 state and is entitled to retirement pay under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as
77 amended from time to time, or would have been entitled to retirement
78 pay under said chapter, but for the fact that the person is under sixty

79 years of age, may by letter or other communication addressed to the
80 commissioner, or by will, request that his or her body will be buried in
81 said veterans' cemetery, or (2) the spouse or other next of kin may
82 apply to the commissioner to have the body of such veteran buried in
83 said veterans' cemetery, and, in either case, such request shall be
84 granted.

85 (d) The spouse of any veteran shall, upon similar request or
86 application made to the commissioner, be buried in said veterans'
87 cemetery provided only one such request or application shall be
88 granted.

89 (e) The commissioner shall designate an area in said veterans'
90 cemetery for veterans who, for religious reasons, require burial in a
91 consecrated area.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	27-73e
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	14-36h(e) and (f)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	27-122b

Statement of Purpose:

To expand eligibility for a certain military honor and certain veterans' benefits.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]